(b) if so, the latest update of the case; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against either of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Possibility of Nuclear War

1678. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent stand off with Pakistan, there is a possibility of a nuclear war and the threat from chemical and biological weapons is now a reality; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to protect the fighting forces and public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Pakistan has, on several occasions including during the recent standoff, averred rejection of the doctrine of no-first-use of nuclear weapons. The implications of such a policy are self-evident.

In addition to reports about alleged violations of international instruments banning chemical and biological weapons, risks of access by non-State actors and terrorists to these weapons of mass destruction have also surfaced in recent years.

(b) Government continues to closely monitor all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes, as also possible threats from use of chemical and biological weapons, and remains fully committed to take all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests

TerroristTraining Camps In Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir

1679. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that terrorist training camps are still runing in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir despite the fact that General Musharraf had promised to close them permanently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the matter was discussed with the U.K. Defence Secretary Geof Hoon during his recent visit to New Delhi and if so, what was his reaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Pakistan has established an elaborate infrastructure for the recruitment, indoctrination and training of terrorists on its territories and territories under its control, to support its policy of sponsoring cross-border terrorism in J&K and other parts of India.

Despite the commitment from President Musharraf to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, not to allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorism anywhere in the world or any organisation in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir, there is no evidence of any firm attempts being made to dismantle the infrastructure that supports and feeds cross-border terrorism including launching stations, communication centres and training camps.

(c) Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India.

Talks with U.S. Defence Secretary regarding infiltration

1680. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the talks with the visiting U.S. Defence Secretary in New Delhi, the presenece of an estimated 3000 Pak-backed terrorists within the Kashmir Valley and an equal number of them ready to infiltrate across the Line of Control, was taken note of, in the context of the Indian proposal for joint Indo-Pakistan vigil along the LoC and the borders in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the decision taken during the talks in the light thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent any strike by these terrorist groups during and on the eve of elections to Jammu and Kashmir Assembly?